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ROUTINE

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DIST 20 FEBRUARY 1976

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1. IN EARLY FEBRUARY, [REDACTED] PRESIDENT
AUGUSTO PINOCHET [REDACTED] IS SERIOUS
ABOUT COMING TO GRIPS WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE AND
ENSURING ENFORCEMENT OF RECENT LEGISLATION REGARDING PROPER
TREATMENT OF DETAINEES. IN THIS REGARD, PINOCHET IS ANXIOUS
TO GET THE FIRST SECTION OF THE NEW CONSTITUTION OUT BEFORE
THE PUBLIC DURING THE FIRST HALF OF 1976, BECAUSE THIS SECTION

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APPLIES TO INDIVIDUAL RIGHTS AND GUARANTEES AND SHOULD
IMPROVE THE GOVERNMENT'S IMAGE IN THE HUMAN RIGHTS FIELD.

2. [REDACTED] THAT MUCH OF THE IMPETUS FOR
PINOCHET'S CHANGE IN ATTITUDE HAS COME FROM DISCUSSIONS HE
HAS HELD WITH MIGUEL SANCHEZ EITZER, MINISTER OF
JUSTICE; JOSE MARIA EYZAGUIRRE, PRESIDENT OF THE
SUPREME COURT; AND JAIME GUZMAN, ADVISOR ON POLITICAL
AND CONSTITUTIONAL MATTERS. GIZMAN HAD ADMITTED
[REDACTED] THAT HE IS A LATE-COMER WITH REGARD TO
RECOGNIZING THE EXISTENCE AND SERIOUSNESS OF HUMAN RIGHTS
ABUSES, BUT THAT [REDACTED]
[REDACTED] CONVINCED HIM TO INVESTIGATE THE ACTIVITIES OF THE
SECURITY FORCES AND PARTICULARLY THOSE OF THE DIRECTORATE
OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE (DINA).

3. IN EARLY JANUARY, THE PAPAL NUNCIO INFORMED
PINOCHET THAT DINA AGENTS HAD COME TO THE NUNCIATURE AND
DEMANDED THE RELEASE TO THEM OF NELSON GUTIERREZ,
AN EXTREMIST LEADER WHO HAD TAKEN ASYLUM THERE. THE NUNCIO
REFUSED AND WARNED THAT IF DINA MEN THAT IF THEY TOOK GUTIERREZ
BY FORCE, HE WOULD SEE THAT THE INCIDENT WAS GIVEN

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INTERNATIONAL PUBLICITY. THE NUNCIO SAID THAT THIS DECLARATION 1.5 (c)

CAUSED THE DINA AGENTS TO RECONSIDER AND WITHDRAW FROM THE EMBASSY GROUNDS. PINOCHET LISTENED INTENTLY TO THE NUNCIO'S

ACCOUNT, EXPRESSED HIS CONCERN OVER THE HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUE, AND SAID THAT HE WAS TAKING ACTION TO IMPROVE THE SITUATION.

4. THE NUNCIO SUBSEQUENTLY SHOWED GUZMAN A LETTER WHICH HE HAD WRITTEN TO THE VATICAN, EXPRESSING FEAR FOR HIS OWN LIFE AND ASKING THAT HE BE RECALLED. ACCORDING TO THE PRESIDENTIAL ADVISOR, GUZMAN, WHO IS AN ALMOST FANATICAL

CATHOLIC, NOW BELIEVES IT IS HIS DUTY TO BOTH INSURE THE SAFETY OF THE PAPAL NUNCIO IN CHILE AND TO CORRECT THE ABUSES OF WHICH THE NUNCIO HAS SPOKEN. GUZMAN HAD HELD SEVERAL CONVERSATIONS WITH SCHWEITZER AND EYZAGUIRRE TO DISCUSS WAYS OF MONITORING AND IMPROVING THE HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATION. THE ADVISOR SAID THAT THE 29 JANUARY DECREE LA GUARENTEEING THE

RIGHTS OF DETAINEES WAS A DIRECT RESULT OF THE EFFORTS OF SCHWEITZER AND EYZAGUIRRE. HE EXPRESSED THE BELIEF THAT THE LAW WILL BE IMPLEMENTED BECAUSE FOR THE FIRST TIME, PINOCHET REALIZES THE EXTENT TO WHICH HUMAN RIGHTS ABUSES ARE UNDERMINING HIS GOVERNMENT AND BECAUSE THE RESIGNATIONS OF

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SCHWEITZER AND EYZAGUIRRE, FOR LACK OF ACTION, WOULD
SERIOUSLY AFFECT CIVILIAN SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT.

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